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# MICHIGAN LAW REVIEW

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LAW SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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## NOTE AND COMMENT

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THE NEW "LAWYERS' CLUB"—LAW SCHOOL NEWS.—As this is the last issue of the REVIEW for the academic year, and the last number of the current volume, it seems appropriate to comment on the affairs of the Law School. The enrollment for the year has been 387, without counting the summer school attendance, the largest number since the war. In the summer school the enrollment was 152. The faculty was strengthened at the beginning of the year by the return of Professor Grover C. Grismore, who had been away on leave. The School will retain all of its present faculty for the coming year. It is also extremely fortunate in having added to its staff, as professor of law, Mr. Herbert F. Goodrich, now professor of law and acting dean at the law school of the State University of Iowa. Mr. Goodrich was graduated at Carleton College with the degree of A.B. in 1911 and received his LL.B., *cum laude*, from Harvard in 1914. After a short period of law practice he joined the law faculty at Iowa. He is unquestionably one of the ablest and most progressive men engaged in teaching law, and his presence on the faculty will add much to its efficiency and reputation.

It is pleasant to be able to announce that, despite newspaper rumor to the contrary, this law school had the highest percentage of graduates who

passed in the fall examinations for the bar of the state and that the highest mark was given to one of its graduates.

By far the most important news of the School to everyone interested in the future of law and legal institutions is the gift to the University, by an alumnus who desires his name withheld, of a building to be used as a Lawyers' Club. The tentative plans show a long, comparatively low structure of English collegiate Gothic type, consisting of the club rooms proper, a dining room capable of seating three hundred persons, and studies and sleeping rooms for approximately one hundred and fifty men. The Club is to be located on the two city blocks immediately south of Alumni Memorial Hall and the President's house. Its type is such as to harmonize perfectly with the beautiful structure of Martha Cook dormitory on the east and that of the Michigan Union on the west. It is designed as the primary unit of a quadrangle embracing the new law school building which the University expects eventually to erect.

The gift is extremely significant as indicating the constantly growing interest and respect of the alumni. It must represent the donor's real belief in the worth of his University and a fine care for its future. By facilitating the coming of alumni back to the University, the Club will strengthen and increase that bond of truly interested loyalty.

The terms of the gift provide that income from the Club shall be used for the promotion of legal research. In this respect it is a gift not alone to the University of Michigan but to the people of the nation as well. It is a lamentable fact that legal research has never enjoyed the freedom and facilities which have advantaged the natural sciences. In thus relieving somewhat the handicap of financial limitation upon legal scholarship, the donor is doing much for the political future of the nation.

The letter accompanying the gift is as follows:

April 25th, 1922.

To the Board of Regents, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan:

Dear Sirs—If agreeable to you, I will erect on the two blocks on South University Avenue, between South State Street and Tappan Avenue, a law students' combined club and dormitory building, with the same advantages as you have extended to other buildings, namely, the University to furnish free heat, light and power. The building is to be known as "The Lawyers' Club," to be governed by five Governors, consisting of the Dean of the Law Faculty (who shall be President), and four other Governors to be selected by the Board of Regents from the Law Faculty. All members of the Law School are to be eligible to membership in the proposed Club, subject to such conditions as the Club authorities may prescribe. All lawyers, whether residing in the state or not, and whether previously connected with the University or not, shall be eligible to membership, subject to being elected by the Governors. All occupants of the building shall be members of the Club and shall pay such annual dues as the Governors may determine, and are to be selected by the Dean of the Law School from the senior law class. Members of the Club not living in the building shall also pay such annual

dues as the Governors may determine. Going prices shall be charged for rooms and board.

The proposed building will furnish sleeping and study rooms for one hundred and fifty law students and dining accommodations for three hundred.

All dues and all profit from the operation of the building shall be used exclusively for legal research work, to be expended from time to time as the Governors may deem best. This legal research work will render possible the study of comparative jurisprudence and legislation, national and state, and also of foreign countries, ancient and modern. Such work should be of use in proposed legislation, and besides leading to the production of reliable law treatises and studies, would help to systematize the law as a science. The European plan of giving leisure time to professors to pursue their studies and produce original works may well be applied in America to professors of law, who at present are absorbed too exclusively in classroom work. A legal research fund could be used to pay part of their salaries, thus giving them time for original research.

The character of the legal profession depends largely on the character of the law schools. Real lawyers were never needed more than now, and they have grave responsibilities. There never was a time when they had so much power as now. It will be for the lawyers to hold this great Republic together without sacrifice of its democratic institutions.

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REINSTATEMENT OF DISBARRED ATTORNEY.—In 1902 Lant K. Salsbury, then city attorney of Grand Rapids, was convicted of receiving a large bribe for exerting his influence as such officer to induce the city to enter into a water contract with certain parties. On appeal, the conviction was affirmed. *People v. Salsbury*, 134 Mich. 537. Following this, Salsbury was disbarred from the courts of the state by an order of the supreme court. He left Michigan, went to Memphis, Tennessee, and made a considerable success as a business man in that city. Recently he applied for reinstatement at the Michigan bar, not because he wanted to practice law in Michigan, for it appeared that he intended to remain in business in Tennessee, but solely to clear his name. His application was based entirely upon a showing of good conduct since going to Tennessee. The decision of the supreme court of Michigan upon this application, *In re Salsbury* (Mich., 1922), 186 N. W. 404, raises some very interesting and vital questions.

The petitioner asked to be reinstated. The court, excepting Justice Fellows, who concurred in the result but expressed no opinion, said they would be glad to reinstate him but for the fact that he was a non-resident, which in their opinion made him ineligible, but they gave their endorsement of his good character by vacating the order of disbarment. The questions which occur are these: 1. Did the court have the power to vacate its order of disbarment after the time for opening, amending or vacating judgments had passed? 2. Did the vacation of the order of disbarment operate *ipso facto* as a reinstatement? 3. Can reinstatement be ordered without a com-